

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 11TH 2021

Purpose: To promote human rights, personal dignity, and positive relations between all residents and visitors to the Town of Maynard.

Meeting Date: Monday January 11th 2021, 7pm

Location: Zoom

Members Present:

- Chris DiSilva (Selectboard Liaison)
- Kathleen FitzGerald (Chair)
- Michael Lisasa
- Caroline Mahiti
- Michael Noble (Police Chief)
- Eliot Prisby (Clerk)
- Shionneka Warren (to be sworn in)

Guests:

- Holly Blomster
- Lynda Thayer
- Rachel Tryba
- Veronica Zolina
- 001881

I. Call to Order / Land Acknowledgement

- Meeting called to order by Ms. FitzGerald at 7:02pm.
- Explanation of online meeting rules by Ms. FitzGerald.
- Land acknowledgment by Mr. Lisasa.
- Ms. FitzGerald acknowledged the events of January 6th 2021 and invited the committee to discuss the events in new business.

II. Approval of Minutes (November 16th 2020 HRC meeting minutes)

- Mr. Prisby motioned to approve the minutes from the November 16th 2020 meeting. Ms. FitzGerald seconded. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.
- Mr. Prisby motioned to approve the minutes from the November 12th 2020 meeting. Ms. FitzGerald seconded. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

III. Public Comment (Community Concerns/3 minutes per speaker)

- No public comments.

IV. Introduce guest, Ms. Sonia Ali: Mr. Prisby

- Ms. Ali was unable to attend, the committee will introduce her at the next meeting. Mr. Prisby explained how he came into contact with Ms. Ali.

V. Welcome New Committee Member, Ms. Shionekka Warren: Ms. FitzGerald

- The committee welcomed Ms. Warren.

VI. Quarterly Police Report on Immigrant Detention: Chief Noble

- Mr. Noble suggested January, April, July, and October as the reporting months, the committee agreed.
- Mr. Noble reported one arrest of an undocumented immigrant. The MPD was contacted by ICE, but there was no follow up since the man had already posted bail.

VII. Report on December 15th 2020 Selectboard Meeting: Ms. FitzGerald/Ms. Mahiti

- Town counsel is involved in the issue being addressed, so discussion during the Selectboard meeting was limited.
- Ms. FitzGerald suggested the committee take more vigorous action, citing the committee's original mission statement. She will contact Justine St. John (the Selectboard chair) to discuss the role of the committee further.
- Ms. Mahiti requested clarification regarding the process by which the committee addresses citizens' issues with municipal organizations.
- The committee discussed relationships and communications between the committees addressing the issues at Railroad Street.

VIII. Report on Maynard Housing Production Plan Meeting: Ms. FitzGerald

- Ms. FitzGerald suggested using the resources from the REMAP grant and HPP forum as a guideline for addressing housing issues in Maynard. She will forward the Housing Primer to committee members, and will invite Roz Greenstein to the committee's next meeting to discuss.
- Ms. Warren suggested the committee speak directly with the tenants. Mr. DiSilva suggested reaching out directly to tenants if necessary. The committee discussed canvassing the tenants to build trust and rapport between municipal organizations and citizens.

IX. Previous Business

- *Brainstorming Community Events/Connections/Activities --The Committee discussed possible socially distant community events that would encourage collaboration across various groups. (from 10/19/2020 HRC Minutes) -Mr. Lisasa*

- Chief Noble re-emphasized a cultural calendar. Ms. FitzGerald will contact Town Administrator Greg Johnson regarding community outreach for the committee.

X. New Business

- Janelle Franklin (interim Assistant Town Administrator) reminded Ms. FitzGerald that an annual report is due, which she will deliver.

XI. Adjourn

- The next meeting was set for Monday February 22nd 2021 at 7pm.
- Mr. Prisby voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm. Chief Noble seconded.